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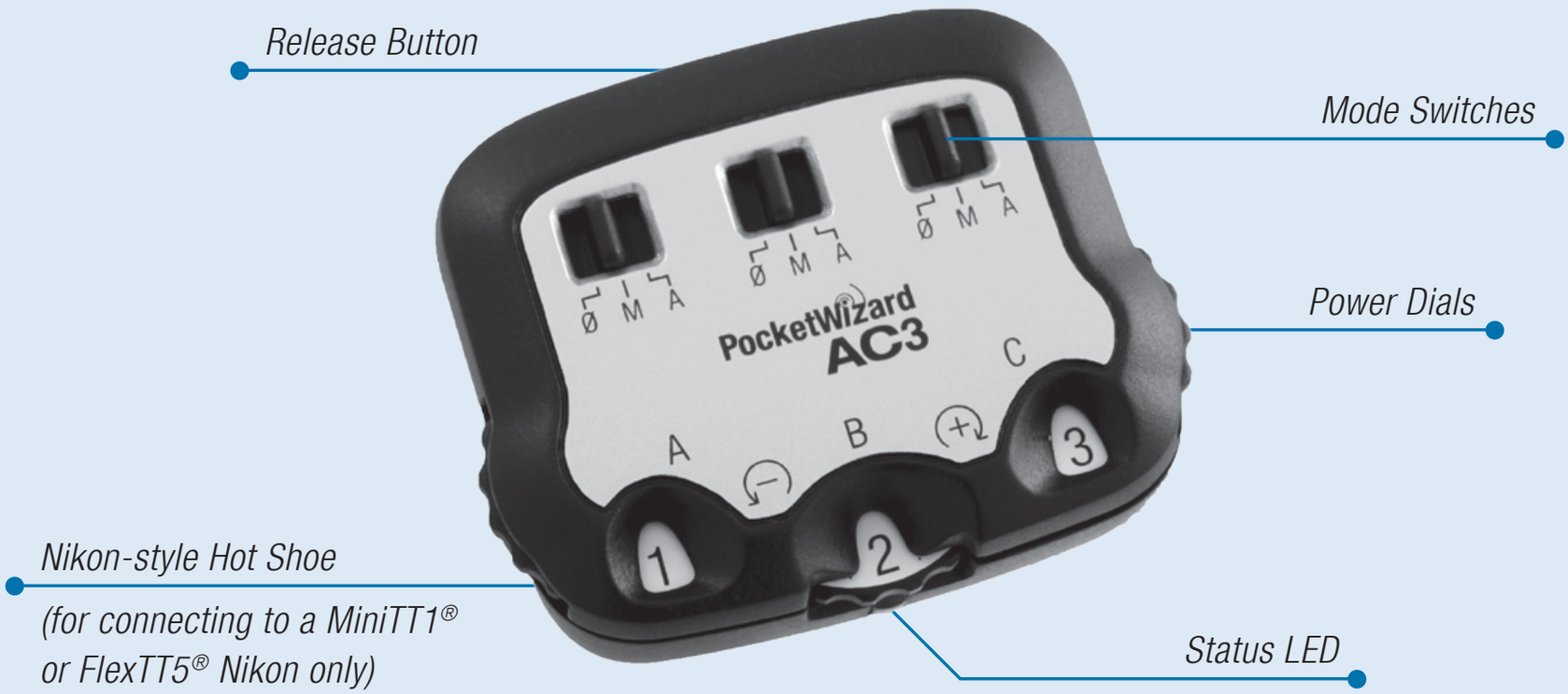
# Quick Guide

# AC3 ZoneController with ControlTL® for Nikon

- **UPDATE FIRMWARE:** Be sure ALL your PocketWizard ControlTL® radios are updated to the latest firmware for proper AC3 functionality. Latest firmware version can be found at: **PocketWizard.com/support/downloads**

- Please read Quick Guide thoroughly before operating.
- Visit wiki.PocketWizard.com for complete operating information.

# AC3 ZoneController




## READ ME FIRST:

- All equipment should be turned OFF when connecting.
- The first exposure after connecting is a calibration shot and may not be properly exposed. Always test at least twice.
- Set all radios to the same channel.
- No batteries required – the AC3 is powered by the connected radio.

## Power Dials

Sets the flash output power.

## Mode Switches

**Ø = OFF** - Flashes will not trigger. Set unused zones to Ø.

**M = Manual Mode** - ControlTL compatible flashes will use the manual power output value set on the AC3 Power Dial. See the AC3 Manual Mode section for more information.

**A = Auto Mode** - ControlTL compatible flashes will use the Flash Exposure Compensation (FEC) as set on the AC3 Power Dial. Nikon Speedlights will perform i-TTL exposures. When compatible studio flashes are used, PowerTracking will engage (see PowerTracking section in AC9 AlienBees Adapter, PowerST4 or PowerMC2 Quick Guides for more information).

## Release Button

Press the release button to remove the AC3 from your transmitter.

## Status LED

The **green** Status LED blinks occasionally to indicate normal operation.

# To use your AC3 ZoneController:

## AC3 ZoneController with Remote Speedlights

1. Slide the AC3 onto your on-camera MiniTT1 or FlexTT5. Power on the transmitter, then the camera.
2. Set up remote Speedlights on FlexTT5 radios normally. Power on the flash, then the FlexTT5.

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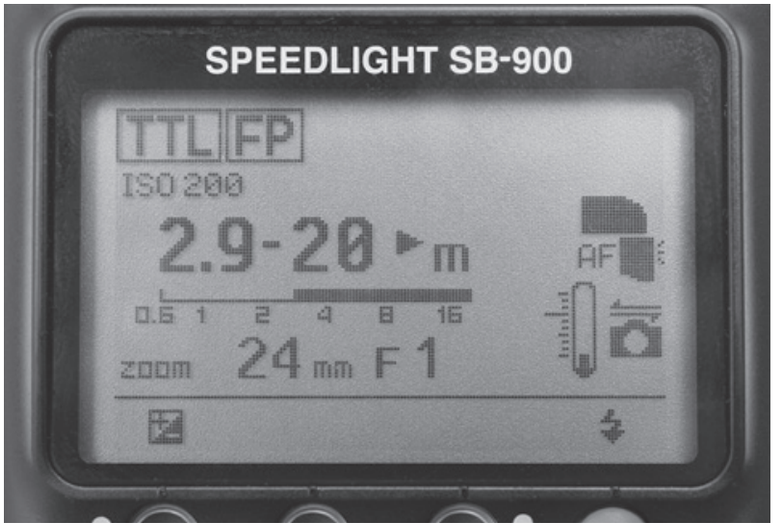
**a.** Set all Speedlights on remote FlexTT5 radios to normal CLS / i-TTL Mode. Do **not** use Manual or MASTER / REMOTE on your remote Speedlights. The AC3 will use CLS / i-TTL commands to control manual power levels when the AC3 Mode Switch is set to M (Manual).

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**b.** Use the FlexTT5 Zone Switch to assign Zone A, B, or C to the Speedlight.

3. On the AC3, set the Mode Switches to M (Manual) or A (Auto) for the zones in use.

   Adjust flash output power with the Power Dials:

   **+** = Black numbers on a white background increase flash output by the stops shown.

   **–** = White numbers on a black background decrease flash output by the stops shown.

4. Take pictures normally.

# ControlTL®

The AC3 ZoneController enhances the ControlTL capabilities of your MiniTT1 and FlexTT5 radios by allowing you to control the flash output power manually from the camera's position or use CLS / i-TTL.

**AC3 Manual Mode:** The Power Dial sets the remote Speedlight power output as shown in the table on the right.

**AC3 Auto Mode:** The Power Dial sets the Flash Exposure Compensation (FEC) relative to the i-TTL exposure for that zone.

Manual and Auto modes can be used at the same time. Manual zones will not be calculated as part of the CLS / i-TTL exposure. Zones set to Ø (OFF) will not trigger.

**FEC NOTE:** In Auto Mode, Flash Exposure Compensation (FEC) can be set in more than one place and the values are used together - all positive and negative FEC values will be combined.

FEC can be set:

- On each zone independently using the AC3 Power Dial when the zone is set to A (Auto)
- Using the camera's FEC control. All AC3 zones set to A (Auto) will be affected equally.

If the combined FEC adjustments are more or less than your flash's capabilities, then the flash will operate at maximum or minimum output accordingly.

* The Power Dial can adjust over a 6 stop range. To achieve the lowest manual power settings on your Nikon Speedlight, like 1/128, you'll need to adjust FEC down accordingly.

## Manual Power Settings

| AC3 Power Dial = | Nikon Speedlights Manual Power Output = |
|---|---|
| 3 | 1/1 |
| 2.7 | 1/2 + 0.7 |
| 2.3 | 1/2 + 0.3 |
| 2 | 1/2 |
| 1.7 | 1/4 + 0.7 |
| 1.3 | 1/4 + 0.3 |
| 1 | 1/4 |
| 0.7 | 1/8 + 0.7 |
| 0.3 | 1/8 + 0.3 |
| 0 | 1/8 |
| 0.3 | 1/16 + 0.7 |
| 0.7 | 1/16 + 0.3 |
| 1 | 1/16 |
| 1.3 | 1/32 + 0.7 |
| 1.7 | 1/32 + 0.3 |
| 2 | 1/32 |
| 2.3 | 1/64 + 0.7 |
| 2.7 | 1/64 + 0.3 |
| 3 | 1/64 * |

***NOTE:*** *Make sure the camera is awake (half-press the shutter button) when changing settings to assure AC3 settings are transmitted to remote ControlTL® radios.*

## Compatibility and Specifications

The AC3 ZoneController works with the following radio combinations when used with an on-camera MiniTT1 or FlexTT5 (required):

### ControlTL Radios

- FlexTT5 radios with Nikon Speedlights using CLS / i-TTL
- FlexTT5 radios with AC9 AlienBees Adapters and AlienBees, White Lightning, or Zeus flashes
- PowerST4 radios with Elinchrom RX flashes
- PowerMC2 radios with Einstein™ E640 flashes

***Note:*** *The Elinchrom, Einstein™ and AlienBees flash output will not be calculated as part of an i-TTL exposure. See the AC9 AlienBees Adapter, PowerST4 or PowerMC2 Quick Guides for their manual power output tables and other information.*

### Standard / Built-in Radios

- AC3 ZoneController controls zone on/off only for PocketWizard Standard Channel Receivers with Quad-Triggering like the MultiMAX or flash packs with built-in PocketWizard radios

### Temperature

Operating Temperature: Above -15° C (5° F) and below 50° C (120° F)
Storage Temperature: Above -30° C (-22° F) and below 85° C (185° F)

# PocketWizard Utility

## The PocketWizard Utility is required for the following operations:

- Sharing Speedlights with another photographer (changing channels)
- Setting PowerTracking Mode for studio flashes (with AC9, PowerST4, PowerMC2)
- Controlling modeling lights for studio flashes (with AC9, PowerST4, PowerMC2)

## Download the Utility at PocketWizard.com/support/downloads and visit wiki.PocketWizard.com for more information.

# PocketWizard.com

## Warranty:

This PocketWizard product is covered under a one-year limited manufacturer's warranty. For warranty details, and to register your product, please go to **PocketWizard.com/support** or contact your local PocketWizard Distributor. Distributor contact information can also be found at **PocketWizard.com**. To receive a copy of the one-year limited manufacturer's warranty on this PocketWizard product, e-mail us at **warranty@lpadesign.com** or write to us at LPA Design, 21 Gregory Drive, Suite #140, South Burlington, VT 05403, United States of America, Attn: Warranty.

Information in this Quick Guide is subject to change. For current operating documentation, features, specifications and compatibility visit **wiki.PocketWizard.com**.

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